

shire (though most unexpectedly I was to find the imago in plenty in the county on 12th July).

On the 4th June, I was collecting with A.S. in local woodland and had picked some sprays of Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) with ova of *Anthocharis cardamines* L. on them, when I noticed a white butterfly was showing interest in the flowers; so, standing still and holding the spray at arm's length, I had the pleasure of watching a female *cardamines* deposit on and in the flower buds. About the same time, *Pararge megera* L. was in good numbers and I took a fine male aberration, very suffused with the forewing black border entering the ocellus.

About the second week in July, I saw the Humming-bird Hawkmoth (*Macroglossum stellatarum* L.) in the town centre, flying as only it does, and the first sighting of this moth for many seasons. This species was again seen feeding from dahlias in the garden on the 22nd and 24th October, no doubt those of a second brood. *Vanessa atalanta* L. and *Cynthia cardui* L. were both numerous after the first sightings in early June, the former in all stages on nettle beds, but we seemed to lose *C. cardui* during the second week of August. The last *V. atalanta* emerged on the 2nd November from larvae collected in late September when they were abundant on young nettles growing on our local river banks. — J. H. PAYNE, 10 Ranelagh Road, Wellingborough, Northants.

ACHERONTIA ATROPOS L. AND OTHER IMMIGRANTS IN WARWICKSHIRE IN 1976. — On the 12th August, Mr. R. Allen found a fully grown *atropos* larva in a potato field at Princethorpe, and on the 18th he found a pupa. Unfortunately two other larvae had been discarded earlier by the potato diggers. The two pupae were kept alive in an airing cupboard from which the perfect insects hatched on the 11th and 12th of September.

Mr. M. Arnold took an *Agrius convolvuli* L. at Armington on the 23rd September; and another was taken by Mr. G. Robson on the 29th at an m.v. trap at Marton, near Rugby. On the 28th August, I took a very worn *Eurois occulta* L. of the grey form in my m.v. trap at Charlecote. *Macroglossum stellatarum* L. has occurred in numbers at Charlecote (two first noted on 12th June), Lillington, Leamington Spa, Rugby and Bilton. — A. F. J. GARDNER, Willows End, Charlecote, near Warwick.

PHYCITINAE (LEP.: PYRALIDAE) IN ESSEX. — An early specimen of *Ancylosis (Cabotia) oblitella* (Zeller) in an m.v. trap at this address was recorded in *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.*, **88**: 180; further discussion of the status of this species in Britain has been published (*ibidem* **88**: 318, 333). Following the first specimen on 15th May, 1976, *oblitella* became common at m.v. light and by the latter half of June 1976 up to 40 specimens were appearing in the trap each night. Specimens exhibited considerable variation in colour: some were very dark grey, others sand-coloured (comparable with pl. 23, figs. 190-4 and 190-1 of *Microlepidoptera Palaearctica*, 4). By mid-September